



Monday, June 14, 2004



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-1797

JOSEPH E. KERNAN
GOVERNOR
www.in.gov

For immediate release

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Kernan, state officials break ground for combined state forensic laboratory

Governor says facility will better protect Hoosiers' health, safety

Gov. Joe Kernan and other state officials today broke ground for the new Forensic and Health Sciences Laboratory, a facility that will help strengthen efforts to protect Hoosiers.

The facility, located at 1500 W. 16th St., will house the Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory, the State Department of Technology, which is within the Indiana University School of Medicine, and the Indiana State Police Forensic Laboratory.

"Bringing these three state agencies under one roof will help us better protect the health and safety of our citizens," said Kernan. "This new facility will put the latest technology and resources in the hands of our law enforcement, our police and our health care providers to keep the state's research and laboratory services ready."

Previously the Indiana State Police conducted some of its technical services in outside areas. Combining the resources of these agencies will result in a more cost-effective and timely response of critical case investigations and forensic findings.

"Being co-located with the State Department of Health and Technology labs will help serve the Indiana State Police in the forefront of prosecution for potential criminal and law-enforcement acts," said State Police Departmenthead Mike Gurnea. "It provides our department with the lab space and scientific equipment needed to solve crime."

State Health Commissioner Greg Wilens noted other benefits to co-locating the agencies.

"We continue to face increasingly complex public health issues, such as emerging diseases, drug resistant strains of 'superbug' commensals, bioterrorism, environmental contamination, and now the threat of chemical and biological terrorism," Wilens said. "This new facility will support more sophisticated laboratory services to work a wider range of forensic cases rapidly, accurately and safely."

- 3000 -



Girls encouraged to jump rope for good health

The Office of Women's Health is encouraging fourth through seventh grade girls to jump rope for their health.

"Jump Girl Jump!" is designed to help girls create an awareness of bone health, physical activity and the importance of calcium intake," said Keisha Banks, Office of Women's Health program director.

Girls and Girl Scouts attending Camp Dellwood in Indianapolis will participate in the program in June and July.

"This opportunity allows us to reach hundreds of girls that will be in the fourth through seventh grade age group that we want to target," said Banks.

According to Banks, research has shown that jumping or high-impact exercise is best for building bone, especially during puberty.



Photo by Dan Axler

Keisha Banks

"Osteoporosis is generally considered an adult disorder; however, there is evidence that osteoporosis has its origins in childhood," Banks said. "In the adolescent years, bones are growing rapidly, and 50 percent of all bone that will be developed is formed during adolescence. Therefore, physical activity, calcium and vitamin D intake are very important during these years."

Physical activity sessions will include a jump rope clinic by Indy Air Bears. The girls will learn various jumping techniques, including single rope tricks and partner jumping.

Banks will lead teach the girls about calcium and osteoporosis, and provide them with a calcium-rich snack.

All participants will receive a free jump rope and Jump Girl Jump! visor from the Office of Women's Health.

National Men's Health Week set for June 13 - 19

Governor Joseph Kernan issued a proclamation declaring June 13 - 19 as National Men's Week in Indiana.

WHEREAS, according to the Men's Health Network, the average man's life expectancy is seven years shorter than the average woman's, despite advances in medical technology and research; and

WHEREAS, preventive health measures such as disease awareness are essential to the early detection and treatment of health problems affecting men; and

WHEREAS, lifestyle practices such as tobacco cessation, regular physical activity and proper nutrition are important parts of a healthy lifestyle, and guidance in following such practices can be provided by health professionals; and

WHEREAS, several diseases and medical problems specific to men, including testicular and prostate cancer, can be avoided through preventive measures; and

WHEREAS, the Men's Health Network reports that men who are educated about the value of preventive health will be more likely to participate in health screening; and

WHEREAS, it is hoped that educating Indiana's public and health care providers about the importance of the early detection of male health problems will help reduce rates of mortality from these diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. KERNAN, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim June 13-19, 2004,

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to take due note of the observance.



The Express
a biweekly publication

The Indiana State Department of Health Express is a biweekly publication for ISDH employees and stakeholders. Words in blue are links that you can access directly if you read the Express on-line. To submit news items, call (317) 234-2817 or send information to: ISDH Express, Office of Public Affairs, 2 N. Meridian St., Section 6G, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3003. Inquiries should be directed to:

Julie Fletcher, Editor
Telephone (317) 234-2817
Fax: (317) 233-7873

jfletche@isdh.state.in.us
<http://www.statehealth.IN.gov>

Margaret Joseph, Director of Public Affairs

Gregory A. Wilson, M.D.
State Health Commissioner

Strategic National Stockpile exercise

The Indiana State Department of Health participated in a full-scale Strategic National Stockpile exercise, May 21 at William Henry Harrison High School near West Lafayette. During the exercise, the Tippecanoe County Health Department set up a clinic to dispense medications and treat volunteer "patients" who had been exposed to pneumonic plague. A local Emergency Operations Center and a Joint Information Center were also set up at the school to handle a number of simulated requests and issues during the course of the exercise.



Above: Workers unpack and sort medication and other medical supplies in the clinic supply room. Left: Workers greet members of the public as they arrive at the mass prophylaxis clinic at William Henry Harrison High School near Lafayette. Below: EMS workers prepare to transport a patient to the local hospital.



Above: A worker tends to ill patients. Those who arrived at the clinic showing symptoms of pneumonic plague were taken to a separate area than those showing no symptoms. Right: EMS workers escort an ill patient to the ambulance.



Photos by Clayton Taylor, WFYI-TV

State health officials attend rural health conference

Nearly a dozen Indiana State Department of Health employees traveled to French Lick, Indiana to attend, and in some cases, speak, at the 2004 Rural Health Conference June 9-11.

"Visions for Healthier Generations" addressed programs and resources that are creating the foundation for a healthier Indiana.

Bob Sunman, Indiana State Office of Rural Health director, said the conference brings together health professionals, medical students, businesses, and others involved in rural health.

"This conference provides a platform for health issues relating to rural Indiana," Sunman said. "It is a great opportunity to discuss new ideas and collaborations, and an excellent way to network with other individuals."

State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. participated in a panel, "Meeting the Rural Healthy People 2010 Objectives," the first day. John Braeckel, Bioterrorism; Nicole Bolde, Childhood

Lead Poisoning; Kathy Weaver, R.N., Office of Policy; and William Wishner, M.D., Chronic Disease, were also among those that presented, or were part of a panel at the conference.

Among the session topics were: "Rural Healthy People 2010 – Rural Health Priorities and Models for Practice," "Bioterrorism," "Man's Fat is Man's Fate: Overweight and Obesity in Indiana Children," and "Childhood Lead Poisoning."

Additionally, pre-conference workshops on nursing and chronic disease and a hospital forum are available, as well as a Heartsaver AED (Access to Emergency Device) training.

"This conference provides a platform for health issues relating to rural Indiana."

-Bob Sunman, Indiana State Office of Rural Health director

Photo by Dan Axler



French Lick Springs Resort



Photo provided by Mark Mallatt, D.D.S.

Oral Health receives national award

The Indiana State Department of Health's Oral Health Division received a Quality Achievement Award at the National Oral Health Convention in Los Angeles, California last month. Shown here, Mark Mallatt, D.D.S., Oral Health Director, left, is congratulated by Dr. Scott Presson with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The award, presented to only two other states, was in recognition of Indiana's high rate of maintaining optimal fluoridation in its water systems. Indiana currently has more than 260 water systems that fluoridate. Indiana was also recognized for having at least 50 years of fluoridation programs. Indiana began its program in 1950 in Ft. Wayne.

Bring Your Youth to Work Day

June 24, 2004

Includes a program in Rice Auditorium from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., a walking tour of the State House, and lunch with parents from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information, please contact Keisha Banks, Women's Health, at kbanks@isdh.state.in.us.

For a complete list of guidelines or a registration form, please contact Pam Ayres, Commissioner's Office, at payres@isdh.state.in.us. Registration forms must be returned to Pam by June 17, 2004.

